

Dear Chairman Powell and Commission,

I am a media researcher who has published extensively on issues of media ownership, and who has been teaching graduate and undergraduate classes on these issues in the US and abroad for over a decade. I am deeply troubled by the latest effort to repeal rules governing ownership, which will allow one company to own a newspaper and television station in the same market. The dangers of concentrated corporate ownership of media are well documented and thoroughly researched. It is irresponsible for government to ignore that research and put corporate interests ahead of the Public Interest which Commission officials are sworn to protect. Allowing a single entity with no understanding of, nor commitment to, local issues to dominate the public information in every American city denies citizens the diverse information on public issues which the framers of the First Amendment intended for them to receive. Indeed, doing so does nothing less than put nearly all information and culture in the United States into the hands of just a few major corporations; a system differing little from the monolithic state controlled cultural production of the former USSR. Please work to return diversity to American broadcasting and return control of our airwaves to the American public, not the few mega-corporations wishing only to consolidate their control over all aspects of communication in our society.

Asst. Professor Chris Paterson, University of San Francisco